(b) whether the bids for these two blocks have already been evaluated by the DGH; and

(c) whether India is likely to substantiate its claim on the blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bangladesh Government had shown apprehension regarding two blocks namely D-22 and D-23 offered under the sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI) pointing out that these two blocks encroach upon Bangladesh maritime areas. However, the blocks lie within the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The Government has already awarded these blocks in February, 2007 and the Production Sharing Contracts are to be signed on 2nd March, 2007 between Government and awardee company.

Central Sales Tax on petrol

228. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to bring petrol, diesel and aviation fuel under the Central Sales Tax Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact this will have on State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Petrol, diesel and aviation fuel (for domestic airline) are already under the Central Sales Tax Act for their inter-state movement. At present they are not 'declared goods' under the Central Sales Tax Act and consequently the sales tax/VAT rates on these products differ from State to State.

LPG requirement in the country

229. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total approximate requirement of LPG for commercial and domestic use during the current year in the country;

(b) whether LPG produced through indigenous sources is insufficient to meet the requirement of the country and it is being imported also from overseas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The requirement of LPG estimated for the current year (2006-07) in the country is 10793 TMT. Break-up of the estimated demand into Domestic & Non-domestic requirement is given below :

		Figures in TMT
Domestic	—	9785
Non-domestic	—	1008
		10793

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet domestic requirement. The shortfall is met through import. Details of LPG demand, domestic production and imports for the last three years are given below :

Year	Demand	Production	Import
2003-04	9,305	7,651	1,708
2004-05	10,245	7,817	2,334
2005-06	10,456	7,717	2,883

Import of LNG from Australia

230. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import LNG from Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price at which the LNG will be imported from Australia; and

(d) the details along with the details of ports through which the import of LNG is planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) is in advanced discussion for tie up of 2.5 Million Metric